(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1-16 with claims 1, 6 and 9-11 being independent. Applicants acknowledge their provisional election of Group I, claims 1-5, drawn to a toner. The claims of Group I have now been amended to recite certain central metals as supported on page 23, lines 17-21 in which the metal is preferably Cr, Fe, Co, Zn and Mn, which facilitates combination with an axial ligand of the metallophthalocyanine . Non-elected claims 6-16 have also been amended to be commensurate with claims 1-5 in the event the Examiner grants rejoinder of the process to make and use claims. Reconsideration of the claims is expressly requested.

Claims 1-5 were rejected as obvious over Itabashi '525 in view of Takasaki '328. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the grounds of rejection Applicants wish to briefly review certain key features and advantages of the present claimed invention.

The present invention provides a toner with a significantly improved dispersion state of the colorant in the toner particles by incorporating specific metallophthalocyanines and specific polymer ligands capable of coordinating with the metallophthalocyanine in the toner. As a result, a high-resolution and high-definition image can be provided which shows unprecedentedly high coloring power. Further, the toner of the present invention is capable of being applied to various transfer materials and is capable of maintaining a satisfactory state for a long period of time without impairing performance of an image forming apparatus provided with a heat pressure fixing device or the like.

In a polymer complex obtained through the coordination of a polymer ligand to metallophthalocyanines, a phthalocyanine ring site exhibits good affinity for a colorant and a polymer ligand site exhibits good affinity for a binder resin and other toner components and the complex prevents re-aggregation by virtue of steric hindrance.

In particular, a polymer complex obtained through the coordination of a polymer ligand to metallophthalocyanine is efficiently produced using the instant metal which can easily acquire an axial ligand. The polymer derived from a specific polymerization monomer having an amide group having an unshared electron pair as a polymer ligand is employed in the present invention. In addition, the above polymer ligand provides enhanced charge controllability. Therefore, the polymer ligand not only provides a preferably improved dispersibility for a colorant in toner particles, but also enables the toner to exhibit preferable properties with regard to its chargeability (see specification page 20, line 19 to page 24, line 1; page 26, lines 6 to 15, and page 120, line 7 to page 121, line 1.

Itabashi '525 discloses phthalocyanines having as a central metal, a divalent metal, a trivalent or tetravalent substituted metal, or an oxymetal. However, Itabashi does not disclose a polymer containing the base unit derived from the polymerizable monomer represented by each of the instant structural formula (1)-(3) of amended claim 1. Further, Itabashi does not disclose that the polymer complex can be obtained by the coordination of the polymer ligand to metallophthalocyanines. In addition, Itabashi does not disclose how to select a metal which readily coordinates with the polymer ligand as the central metal of the metallophthalocyanines.

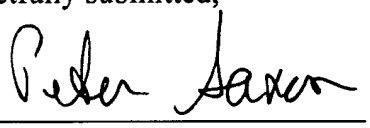
Takasaki '328 discloses a copolymer comprising a vinyl monomer and SO_3X group-containing (meth)acrylamide. However, Takasaki does not disclose that the polymer complex can be obtained by the coordination of the polymer ligand to metallophthalocyanines. In addition, Takasaki does not disclose selecting a metal which easily coordinates the polymer ligand for use as the central metal of the metallophthalocyanines.

Neither Itabashi nor Takasaki disclose that (1) the polymer complex can be obtained by coordination of the polymer ligand to metallophthalocyanines, or (2) how to select a metal which readily coordinates the polymer ligand, as the central metal of the metallophthalocyanines.

Wherefore, the claims should be allowed, the non-elected claims rejoined and allowed and the case passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Saxon
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 24,947

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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